

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2011

Present: Barbara Tallone, Chair; Barbara Willson, Secretary; Ann Corcoran, Treasurer; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Steve Baran; Pat Ellis; Paul Turner; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department.

Absent. Charlie Aaronson; Jim Papachristos; Sally Thompson; Norma Wu, Liaison Friends of the COA.

Call To Order: Barbara Tallone

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:45 on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the Senior Center.

Items Distributed at meeting or available electronically:

Agenda for the meeting

Minutes of the COA Board meeting of October 3, 2011

Director's Report

Chairman Tallone's letter to members of the Acton 2020 Committee

Responses to the above letter from some recipients

Review of the Minutes of October 3, 2011

The minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting were accepted with the following correction:

On the 7th line of page 2 change "Acton" to "Municipal"

Director Report: Sharon Mercurio

Meetings

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings for department heads, Sharon attended a variety of meetings including but not limited to: Emerson Hospital Collaborative, Employee Recognition, Liberty Alzheimer's Partnership, Acton 2020, and Budget Retreat. Evaluation of the use of the Senior Center as a shelter with Emergency Management staff.

She oriented the new Outreach Worker, Beverly Hutchins, including meetings with Directors of Acton Housing Authority, Minuteman Senior Services, Cooperative Elder Services and the interim Veteran's Service Officer.

Staff members attended MCOA conference and Safety Net and Fuel Assistance training.

Programs

Eleven programs have waiting lists. Two programs were held in the evening. Attendance at the Charlie Card event was 95. Lunch was provided by several groups and 64 attended that prepared by Robbins Brook.

Building

When open for shelter (October 29-November 3, 2011) regular programs were shut down due to space shortage. The average daily number of people entering via the front door was 103. The building was utilized by other committees twice during October.

New Senior Center Report: Sharon Mercurio

Following further consultation the Senior Center Building Committee will request \$200,000 at the April Town Meeting for Architect fees, testing of the site and to explore the aspect of this center also being a community center.

A survey will be included in the January newsletter to gain a perspective of senior citizens regarding a new center.

Report on Acton 2020 Committee Items: Barbara Tallone, Sharon Mercurio, Mike Gowing

Many members attended the meeting regarding Goal #4-Increased Gathering Places. Chairman Tallone read the COA Board Position. Lively discussion ensued. At the later public meeting to determine citizen's priorities on all goals, Acton 2020 presentation demonstrated support and understanding of the COA position.

Christmas Luncheon COA Board Serving: Ann Corcoran

The menu is planned. Centerpieces are donated by Cataldo's and chicken by the Nutrition Services of Minuteman Homecare. Members signed up for donations and roles at the luncheon at the Senior Center on December 13, 2011.

Liaison Board of Selectmen: Mike Gowing

The new Veteran's Monument was dedicated on 11-11-11.

Following the October storm, loss of power and use of Shelters, Selectmen have met with NSTAR and National Grid, scheduled a hearing to discuss the town developing its own power company and initiated a plan for shelter for frail residents with medical problems with Life Care of Acton..

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Liaison Friends of COA: Norma Wu

No report

Liaison Acton Police: Sgt Raymond Grey

Break-ins have occurred for the purpose of stealing jewelry. The robbers cleverly cased homes, successfully fenced the items for purchase of illegal drugs. They have been apprehended. Police went door to door to residents known to be vulnerable during the October storm. Services were provided including collaboration with the Shelters.

Liaison Minuteman Senior Services: Charlie Aaronson

No report

Report on Active Acton: Barbara Willson

Monthly meetings of the Advisory Board to hear reports from the grant recipients have begun. To date reports on nutrition in elementary schools and transportation improvement have been heard.

New Business: Pat Ellis

The bill regarding Senior Tax Relief is still in committee on Beacon Hill.

Adjournment -Next Meeting: Barbara Tallone

The meeting adjourned at 4:40. The next meeting will be Monday December 12, 2011 at 3:45 P.M. at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Willson, Secretary